

shall cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep." The gospel was being preached to a great Kaffir chief in the south of Africa. He was deeply interested in the story which was being unfolded, and amazed at the announcement of an eternal salvation at God's right hand. The quick tears sprang to his eyes, and with choked utterance he asked of the missionary, "Why didn't you come sooner? My father, mother, and many of my friends are dead, and this light and hope has come too late to help and save them." Shall we go now or wait until additional thousands have gone to the grave unenlightened?

How much shall we give?

This question has oft been asked by us as we are called upon to contribute to this or any other good cause. We are, of course, familiar with the teaching of the Old Testament upon the subject. Then the inflexible rule was the giving of the tenth unto the Lord; and the giving of this amount was made the condition to material prosperity (Mal. 3:8-10). There are many earnest and conscientious Christian people who believe that this law is still the one to be kept, and they act accordingly. Personally I am not so sure of it, but am rather inclined to accept Paul's admonition to "lay by as the Lord has prospered you," (I Cor. 16:2). In some instances this may be less than the tenth, but in most it would probably be more. In case of misfortune, and when others are depending upon us, I should feel that we are somewhat excusable, but I doubt if ever we have a fully legitimate excuse for giving nothing at all. It may be ever so little, but if it is given in the name of the Lord, it will not fail to confer a blessing both to the giver and the cause to which it is given. We shall feel the better for having given, even the little, because we shall have more of a personal interest in the work and feel commended for having done what we could. Sometimes we hear people say that they can't do much, but they will give the "widow's mite." It is extremely doubtful if they do as they propose; for tho it was indeed a little contribution which the widow made, she gave *all that she had*, keeping back not even one mite for herself. Has any one of us done so much? Upon such a question the statement is often made that "charity begins at home." It is true, no doubt, but it ought not to end there. We ought to let charity go out visiting sometimes. But this is not a question of charity, for God does not come begging. Neither is he who solicits a contribution from you to advance the Lord's cause a beggar. He is God's servant, appointed to collect what you owe Him. It is a question of debt. We pay our taxes to support the government which agrees to defend our rights in property and person. Do we not owe more unto the Lord? And how dare we withhold from Him that which is His? Our giving is not to be only for the support of missions, because this is only a part of the Lord's work. There is home work to be considered also,

for we have preaching, Sunday-school, poor and even other demands, which are not to be neglected, so that, perhaps, the part to be applied to the cause of missions may be the smallest of them. But even when we have supported the home field, there is, at least, a small margin available to assist in carrying the Word into other communities. It may be only a few cents, but the aggregation of these small sums will make a fund of sufficient amount to do considerable of work. I hope you will pardon me if I speak of my people and work here on the Pacific coast, using them as an illustration of ability in this direction. I am serving two congregations as pastor. In the first I have three regular appointments, and about 35 members so located as to be within reach of preaching services. In the other congregation we have forty members, about two-thirds of whom are within reach. In addition to this work, I also preach for the little band at Atwater, which was organized last summer, and has a membership of thirteen souls. There are enough more, under the care of Brethren Reed and Shank, to make the number of our people who are in touch with our organized effort in this part of the state, a little more than 100 souls. These give support to their pastors, amounting to about \$1000 per year, and in addition to this pay about \$150 into the State Mission treasury annually, and also give about \$50 for the support of the general mission work. This makes the average contribution to this latter fund 50 cents per member. You will say that this is not a large sum, and we all quite agree with you; but if each brother and sister in the church would give an equal amount, there would be from \$12,000 to \$15,000 in the hands of your General Mission Board, to be used each year in the cause of missions at home and abroad. What an immense amount of good could be done! We should be able to support missions in at least ten of our large cities, and keep from seven to ten workers in the foreign field. And who could not do this much? Where is the congregation in which this average could not be maintained? But lest you might think that the ability to give is so much greater here in the golden (?) west, than in other localities, I have only to say that our people here are by no means wealthy. In the two congregations which I serve, seven families own four farms, but most of these are heavily encumbered. Three families own small village lots, and the remainder are tenants. There is positively not a wealthy person among them, save only that they are rich in love and good works. In addition to this, the year 1898 has been one of the most trying in the history of the state. The rainfall last winter and spring, was only about one-third of the usual amount; and as a result, there was practically an entire failure in every department of agricultural and horticultural California. The world at large has little idea of the completeness of the state's failure in products of farm and orchard, because Californians keep these things at home. But in

spite of the fact that a majority of farmers are living upon borrowed money, and have retrenched wherever it was found possible to do so, there has been little or no shrinking of the Lord's fund. Salaries are paid promptly; the State Mission treasury is as healthy as ever, and the average of 50 cents per member is coming into the treasury of the General Mission Board. The largest single contribution to this fund this year has been \$5 00, and the smallest 12 cents, but the average is kept up. I have been a pastor long enough, and have worked in a sufficient number of places, to convince me thoroughly, that in every congregation, no matter where it may be, this amount can be raised. If the financial returns were \$1.00 for every 50 cents invested, there would be little difficulty in raising this amount. But the returns are not directly financial, neither are they wholly spiritual.

(Concluded next week)

For Washington City Church Property

A brother, South Bend, Ind., (cash.)	\$ 2 00
Josephine Heiney, Mt. Etna, Ind., (cash.)	1 00
Previously reported,	549 03
	\$552 03
W. M. LYON.	

Church News

Ashland University

We report the receipt of \$9 75 from the Brighton congregation, Ind., on the apportionments due from the Indiana district. Also report \$60.00 from the Fairview church, Ohio, balance apportionment in full. We now propose to resume the work of collecting the balance of the unpaid apportionments from the various districts. The churches that are delinquent on their apportionments are as follows:

Ohio. Middlebranch \$16 10; Dry Creek 55 00; Farmersville 17 00; Homerville 50 00; Pleasant Hill 160 00; Winchester 41 50; West Independence 22 00; West Alexandria 68 00; Williamstown 140 00. Total \$569 60.

Indiana. Pleasant View \$25 50; North Manchester 21 00; Clear Creek 16 00; Romanoke 60 00; Zanesville 57 00; Berne 8 00; Mt. Pleasant 10 00; Brighton 35 00; Gravelton 2 25. Total \$235 05.

Pennsylvania. Meyersdale \$94 50; Highland 33 50; McVeytown 20 00; Summit Mills 100 00; Jones Mills 50 00; Mt. Vernon 17 50; Mt. Zion 30 00; Berlin 133 00; Stony Creek 31 20; Somerset 5 00; Cone-maugh 108 00; Fairview 55 00; Pike 55 00; Masontown 75 00; Middle Run 30 00; Quiet Dell 55 00; Bridgeport 88 00; Mt. Union 30 00; Altona 30 00; Brush Valley 30 00; Glade Run 30 00; Oakland 30 00. Total \$1130.84.

Churches in Md., W. Va. and Va. balance aggregating \$260 00. Churches in Michigan, balance aggregating 190 00. Illinois District has paid in full. Kanemorado District has paid in full. California District has paid in full. The total amount yet to be collected is \$2385 35.

These unpaid apportionments, as agreed